United Nations S/2003/836

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 August 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 25 August 2003 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to bring to the attention of the members of the Security Council recent developments in the work of the Economic and Social Council on African post-conflict countries.

First, the Council has continued to closely follow the situation in Guinea-Bissau. I wish in that respect to draw your attention to the letter addressed to me by Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations and Chairman of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau, and its attached supplementary report on the work carried out by the Group since January 2003 (E/2003/95). That document was submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its recently held substantive session. After considering it, the Council adopted resolution 2003/__ of 24 July 2003 (see E/2003/L.23/Rev.1).

I am pleased to note that, as explained in the report of the Advisory Group, there have been growing working relationships between the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, including a joint mission to that country from 26 to 28 June 2003. Ambassador Gaspar Martins, Permanent Representative of Angola and Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Security Council on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, has taken an active part in the work of the Advisory Group and has been instrumental in leading that collaboration to the point of taking concrete actions.

Second, following a request formulated by the authorities of Burundi, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2003/16 of 21 July 2003, established an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on that country. The composition and mandate of the Group were defined in decision 2003/__ of 22 August 2003 (see E/2003/L.48, as orally amended). The Group will start its work very shortly and will invite Ambassador Martins to participate in it.

As the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau continues its work, its mandate having been extended until the organizational session for 2004 of the Economic and Social Council, to be held in January 2004, and as the Group on Burundi enters into its operational phase, I look forward to continued interaction between our two bodies on the support to be provided to African post-conflict countries and on other issues of common interest.

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I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gert **Rosenthal**